

PRESS RELEASE  
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## Hi-tech, higher level of competition at 2009 Palarong Pambansa

The Palarong Pambansa – the country's biggest sporting event -- opens on April 26 to May 2, 2009, promising a higher level of competition and full use of technology in delivering real-time games results to the spectators.

Games venue is the refurbished Leyte Sports Development Center (LSDC) in Tacloban City. The results of the games can be watched in the website of the Department of Education with address at <http://depedtfss.wikispaces.com>.

Some 15,000 athletes and school officials from 17 delegations representing public and private elementary and secondary schools all over the country will see action in the week-long sporting event.

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus said there will be 17 events for the secondary level and 14 events for the primary level. The athletes competing in the Palaro emerged from the elimination round in regional athletics meets held months and weeks before the grand Palaro. Individual athlete and teams had to compete first at the school level then at the provincial level before reaching the regional elimination in a run-up to national level.

"Whatever is the latest in the international standards, we expect them to be applied in the Palaro. We will continue to raise the level of competition as well as the management of the Palaro because it is the international arena that we should focus on," Lapus said.

Lapus said that DepEd will once again make full use of ICT in ensuring that the public is updated on the results of the games.

He said the department will make the necessary improvements from what was used during last year's Palaro held in Puerto Princesa City in Palawan.

Immediately after each event is played, the results can already be viewed on-line especially by those who cannot be at the venue. DepEd has an Information, Communication and Documentation group that will do wireless reporting on-line of the game results. There will also be wide screen projection of the game results in strategic points in Tacloban City.

"We expect a much improved wireless reporting of every sporting event including the real time and on-line broadcast of events and results," Lapus stressed.

Local officials of Leyte headed by governor Jericho Petilla are putting the finishing touches in rubberizing the oval of the LSDC. The provincial government provides the facilities needed for the games.

DepEd handles the technical management of the Palaro including the procurement of technical equipment needed for the events. It has also completed the composition of the technical officials for all the events.

“To ensure the integrity of the games, we have convened the chairs of the screening committees in the district, division, and regional levels where we discussed and reoriented them on the updated rules for the screening and accreditation of athletes,” Lapus said.

The personnel officiating in the different events are school teachers who have been trained and properly accredited by the DepEd Task Force on School Sports.

“All of these are part of the continuing investment of the DepEd not only in the academic performance of our students but also their sports development so that we can produce upright, wholesome and healthy citizens,” Lapus pointed out.

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